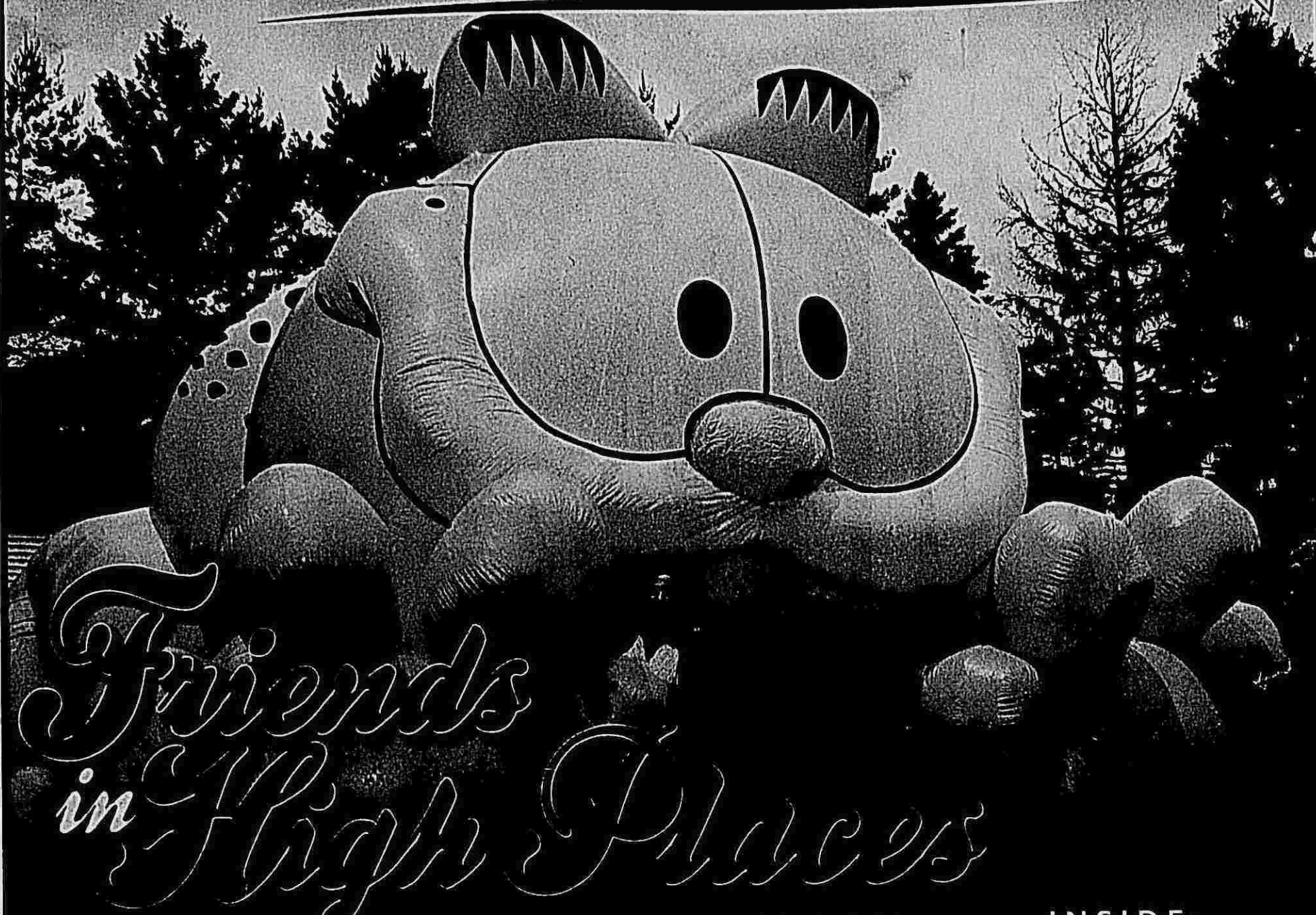


American Profile



Friends in High Places

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INSIDE:

- Dick & Rick Hoyt race to inspire others
- Elk Falls, Kan., takes pride in its privies
- Our Picks
- Tangy lemon bars

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Ask American Profile

Q Whatever happened to the lovely Louise Fletcher? I only saw her once, in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. How old is she, and what's she doing now?
—Molan Boots, Lexington, Ky.

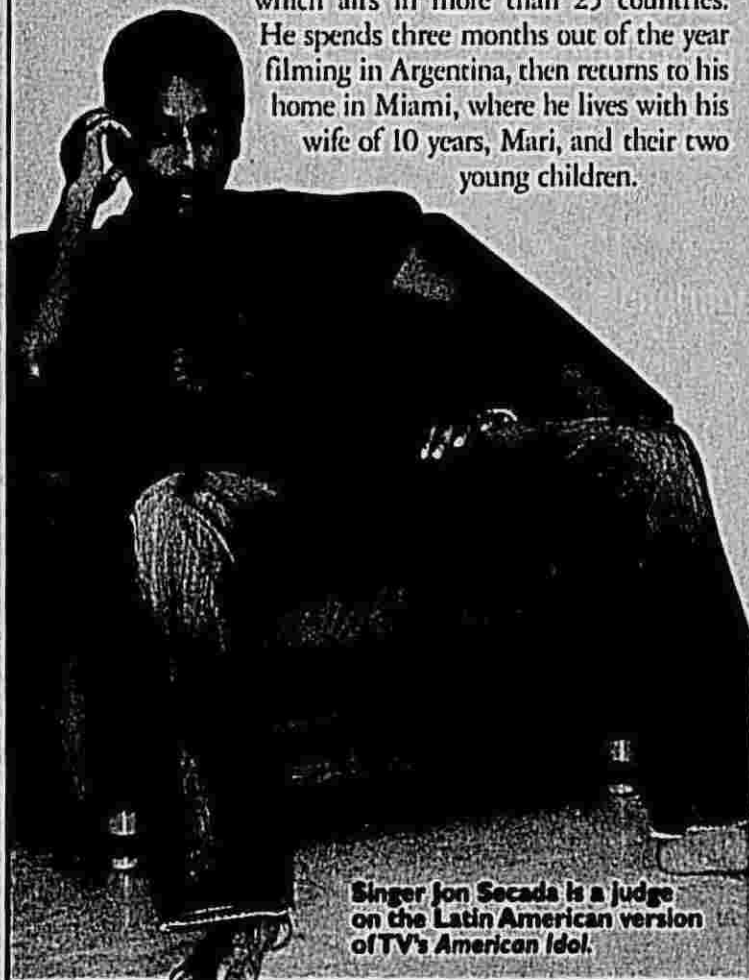


Actress Louise Fletcher

Fletcher, 73, appeared last year in the Lifetime network's television movie *Me and Luke*, and can be seen in the new DVD *A Dennis the Menace Christmas*, in which she plays Mrs. Wilson. She won an Academy Award in 1976 for her portrayal in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* of the villainous Nurse Ratched, a role turned down by Anne Bancroft, Ellen Burstyn and Jane Fonda.

Q Whatever happened to the great singer Jon Secada? His voice is amazing.
—John Tovas, Big Spring, Texas

The Cuba-born Grammy winner has a just-released Christmas CD, *A Christmas Fiesta*. "I perform traditional songs to Latin rhythms," explains Secada, 46, who's also a celebrity judge on the Latin American version of *American Idol*, which airs in more than 25 countries. He spends three months out of the year filming in Argentina, then returns to his home in Miami, where he lives with his wife of 10 years, Mari, and their two young children.



Singer Jon Secada is a judge on the Latin American version of TV's *American Idol*.

Q What can you tell me about the cute female carpenter who hosts the show *DIY to the Rescue*? She looks like someone I knew in college.
—Brian Huey, St. Louis, Mo.

Perhaps you did know Amy Devers in college, but which college? The Michigan native, who also hosts the DIY Network shows *Blog Cabin*, *Freeform Furniture* and *DIY Inside: The Builders' Show*, studied fashion design at the State University of New York and furniture design at San Diego State University and Rhode Island School of Design. Along the way, she also became pretty handy with a hammer. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Kristian Dunn, a rock musician in the bands The Softlightes and El Ten Eleven.



DIY Network host Amy Devers was once a foreman in a machine shop.

Q How can I vote for the Country Music Association awards? Last year, my favorite singers didn't even get nominated.
—Louise Berth, Taos, N.M.

Unlike some other televised awards events, the CMA Awards are not open for voting by fans or the general public. Nominees and winners are determined by the 6,000 members of the Country Music Association, a professional trade organization of musicians, songwriters, producers, managers, booking agents, music publishers and others involved in the country music industry. George Strait, Brad Paisley, Martina McBride and Alison Krauss are among the nominees for this year's ceremony, *The 41st Annual CMA Awards*, which will be telecast live Nov. 7 on ABC.

* Cover photo by David Mudd



Singer Brad Paisley

■ Would you like to know more about your favorite celebrity or public figure?

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Friends in High Places



Courtesy of the 500 Festival

Toni McKay has friends in high places. They have names everyone knows well, and include the cartoon characters Curious George, Arthur, Dick Tracy and Garfield. During holidays and special celebrations, they float between skyscrapers and more modest rooftops, entertaining parade spectators around the world.

McKay, 48, is the owner of StarBound Entertainment, a company that creates larger-than-life balloons in a 2,000-square-foot building in New Castle, Pa. (pop. 26,309).

"I believe I'm the only woman in the world who does this for a living," says McKay, who started her parade balloon business 20 years ago. She's certainly the only woman who does it in the United States; StarBound is one of two major U.S.-based balloon firms, and the only one owned and operated by a female.

As a little girl growing up in nearby Ellwood City, Pa. (pop. 8,688), McKay remembers putting on backyard shows for her neighbors. "As an adult, it dawned on me that parade balloons could be my way to become a successful businesswoman and still entertain people," she says.

Her idea was to manufacture balloons not only for major city parades, but also for celebrations in smaller



Garfield is one of Toni McKay's popular parade balloons.

Making the world a brighter, happier place, one parade balloon at a time

cities that had never had large balloons before. Today, StarBound balloons fly at major events, including Philadelphia's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., as well as at smaller ones, such as the annual Festival of Trees Parade in Davenport, Iowa.

McKay's seven full-time and 50 seasonal employees create and provide balloons for some 150 events each year, including parades in Europe and South America.

The process of making a balloon starts with a StarBound engineer creating an aerodynamically sound scale model of the intended design in clay, which is then scored into separate sectional areas. Vinyl sections are created based on the model and heat-sealed together. Production takes about 45 days.

StarBound has an inventory of about 350 different balloons, which are shipped to events and then returned to New Castle for storage.

Ray Pulver, 47, owns Upbeat Parade Productions of San Jose, Calif., and has used StarBound balloons for 15 years for events in San Jose and Oakland, Calif.,

and other cities. "Toni always keeps parades fresh by adding new balloons each year," Pulver says.

John Best, 43, produces Philadelphia's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the National Independence Day and National Cherry Blossom Festival parades in the nation's capital. "I've been working with Toni for 10 years," says Best, who won a daytime Emmy for his production of the 2005 Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade. "Every time I see those kids and families look up enthralled at those balloons, I know Toni and I have done the parade right."

Some of StarBound's balloons are custom-designed specifically for her clients. "One is a giant golf ball," McKay says. "It was made for the World Golf Hall of Fame Parade. We've also made balloons of giant persimmons, a star, a Cleveland Browns football helmet, and even an airplane."

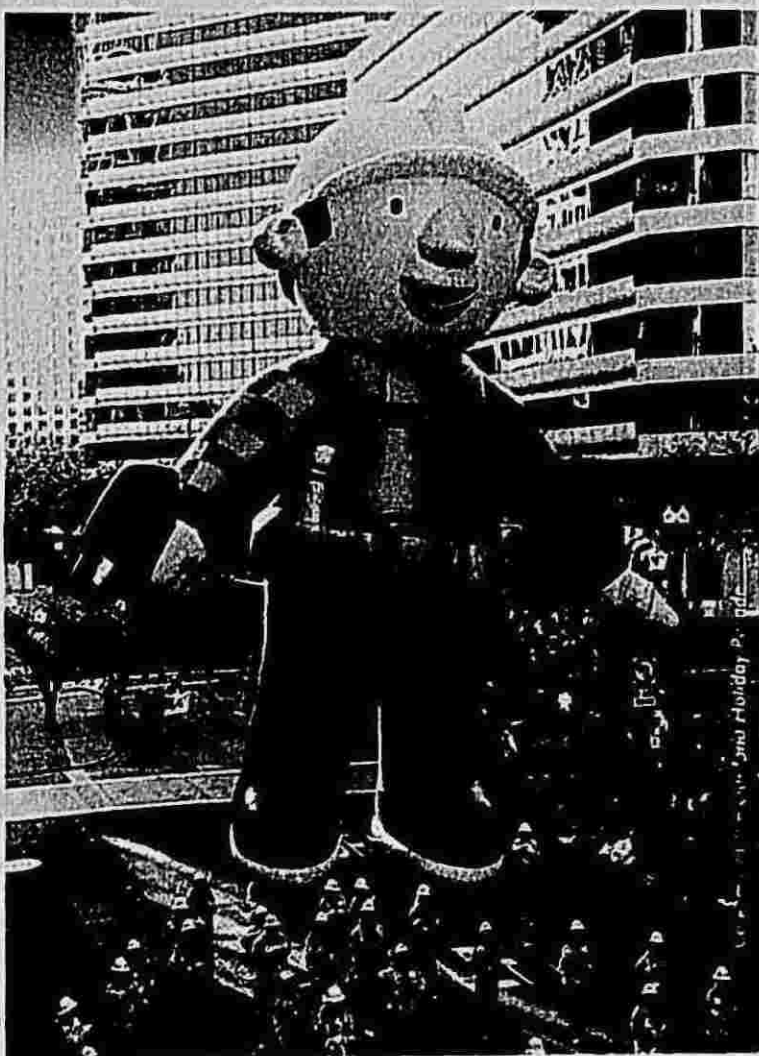
McKay is especially proud of a parade balloon her company made for the annual Festival of Lights Parade in Gatlinburg, Tenn. (pop. 3,382). "They wanted a balloon in tribute to the American soldier," she says. "I used a photograph of my late father in his World War II uniform as the model."

Looking back on the last two decades, McKay is delighted to have built a career that allows her to fulfill her dream. "I also wanted my work to make the world a brighter, happier place," she says.

With StarBound's colorful balloons floating over delighted faces around the world, she's done exactly that. ✧

Andy Leheny is a writer in Charlotte, Iowa.

Click on this story at www.americanprofile.com for more information and to see additional photos.



Bob the Builder hovers at the Holiday Parade in Oakland, Calif.



McKay's balloon creations include Curious George, Smokey the Bear and Garfield's canine friend, Odie.

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Hometown Spotlight

Photos by Mike Gullett



Decorated outhouses are open for public tours each November in Elk Falls, Kan.

Mildred Booe, 76, poses her four friends in front of a humble outhouse and snaps their picture. No need to tell them to smile. They're already in good humor as they explore a dozen decorated privies during the 11th annual Outhouse Tour and Contest in Elk Falls, Kan. (pop. 112).

"Kids growing up nowadays don't know what we went through," says Booe, of Pittsburg, Kan., as she swings open the creaky door of an outhouse strung with Christmas lights and nicknamed "Santa's North Hole."

While some small towns fade without a fight when their schools and businesses are boarded up, in 1996 resourceful Elk Falls residents took a look at what makes their town distinctive and decided to flaunt it. Now, each November on the Friday and Saturday before Thanksgiving, they pretty up their privies and put them on parade.

"Lots of towns have garden tours or Victorian home tours," says Steve Fry, 54, president of the Friends of Elk Falls. "We were brainstorming what we could promote, and someone said, 'Well, we have a lot of outhouses.'"

The outhouse tour has provided a whiff of fresh air in the self-proclaimed "Outhouse Capital of Kansas," where traffic is so sparse that a flock of guinea fowl struts along the main drag. Last year, about 2,000 people visited the themed toilets and paid \$1 to vote for their favorites. Along the route, they snapped pictures, laughed and

told stories about their own unforgettable trips to the shack out back.

"I remember going down to my aunt's outhouse in the holler and you had to shoo the hens out of the hole," says Linda Walters, 62, of Independence, Kan., who along with friend Barbara Hallett, 66, sported a red union suit with a drop seat for the outhouse tour.

Fry is thrilled that Elk Falls is reaping fame and fun from its lowly landmarks. The town's 40 or so houses have indoor plumbing, but more than half still have a standing—or leaning—outhouse in the backyard.

"A lot are original outhouses, 100 years old, that were never destroyed," Fry says. "Some people keep their outhouse for a spare. It's a piece of history. There's a certain charm to them."

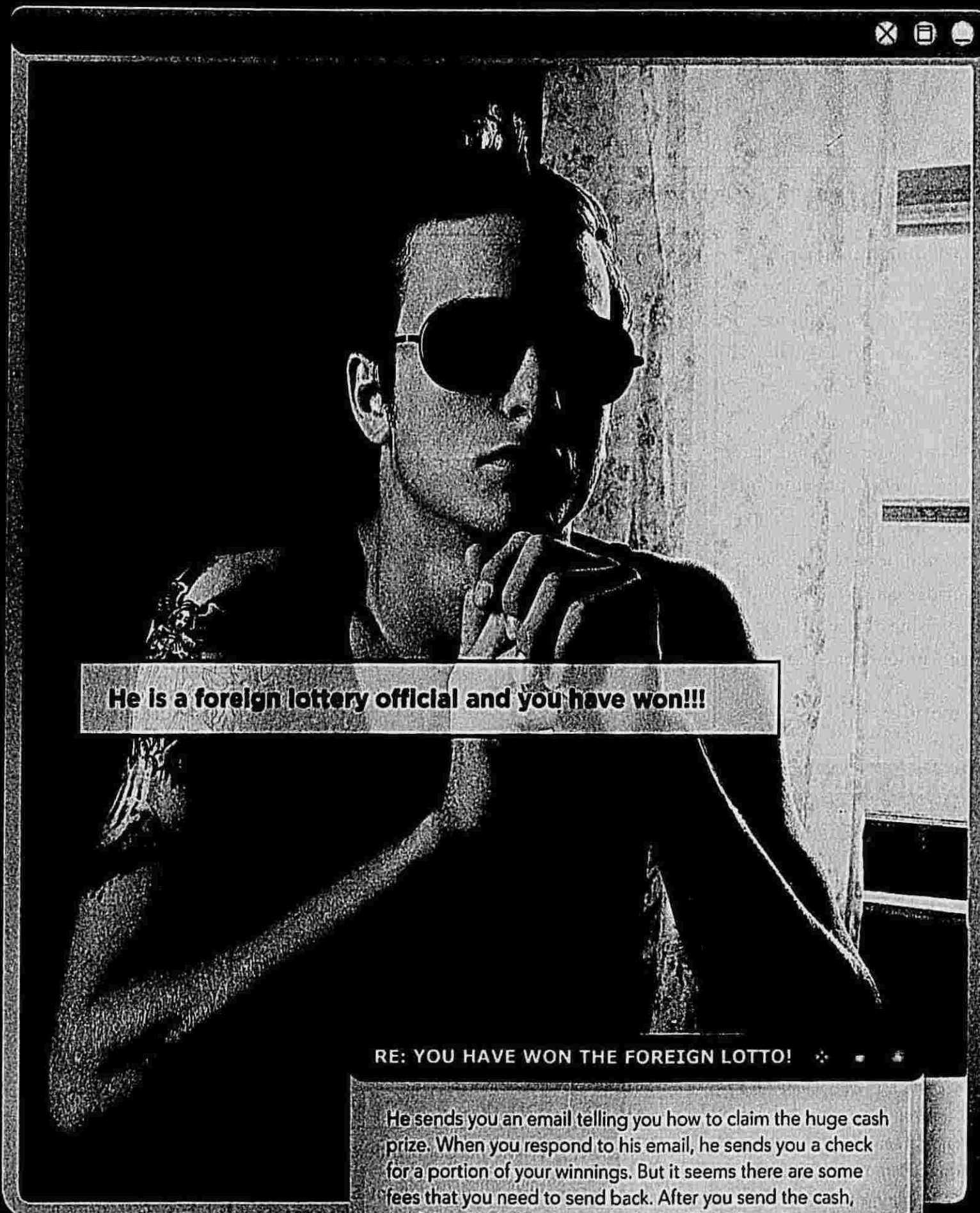
One of Elk Falls' historic outhouses is an "Eleanor," named after first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and built by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. Most rural outhouses had dirt or wooden floors, but these progressive models had concrete floors and risers to the wooden seat.

Among last year's themed outhouses were the "Practice Room," outfitted with a drum, guitar and music stand; the classy "Flower Pot" featuring floral wallpaper, a gardener's fork for a handle and a trowel for a door knocker; and the roofless "Far-Out House," which purportedly once seated Jimi Hendrix and inspired the 1960s singer to

(Continued on page 10)

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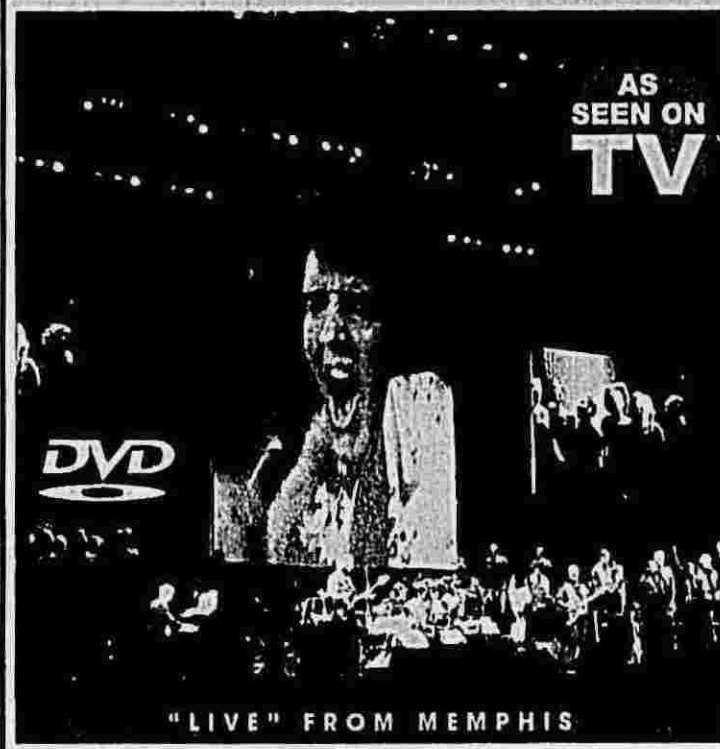
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(Continued from page 8)

write his famous psychedelic lyrics, *'sense me while I kiss the sky.'*

David Herd, 18, and his father, Alan, 52, won first place and received the Outhouse Throne Award—a one-gallon stone chamber pot—for their "Santa's North Hole" entry.

"Two families said they were using a picture of our outhouse for their Christmas cards," David says about their festive restroom bedecked with a wreath on the door and toilet paper stamped with Santa Clauses.

Along the tour, people stop for bowls of chili simmering in an iron kettle in the old schoolyard and homemade apple dumplings at the Elk Falls Cafe, the town's only eatery. They shop for goat milk soap, stoneware bowls at Fry's pottery shop, and other handcrafts. Some participate in the town's "Gray Gravel Road" project.

As Dorothy Tiffany hands out outhouse-tour maps, she peckles jars of gravel. "For 50 cents you can buy a quart of gravel and put it in the pothole of your choice," she says.

Whether it's potholes or privies, the folks in Elk Falls have a proud tradition of making do with what they have.

"We promote our town, whatever there is to promote," Fry says. "We don't want our town to die." ☆

The 12th annual Outhouse Tour and Contest is scheduled Nov. 16 and 17. Call (620) 329-4425 for more information.

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Famous EdenPURE® portable heater that can cut your heating bill up to 50% is now much better

Heats a large room in minutes with even heat wall to wall and floor to ceiling

Does not get hot, cannot start a fire and will not reduce humidity or oxygen

By John Whitehead,
Media Services

The famous infrared portable heater, the EdenPURE®, which can cut your heating bills by up to 50%, has been greatly improved.

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to-ceiling. And, as you know, portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater. With the EdenPURE®, the temperature will not vary in any part of the room.

Unlike other heating sources, the EdenPURE® cannot put poisonous carbon monoxide into a room or any type of fumes or any type of harmful radiation.

Q. What is the origin of this amazing heating element in the EdenPURE®?

A. This advanced heating element was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones.

Q. What advantages does infrared quartz tube heating source have over other heating source products?

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Q. How can a person

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Cannot start a fire; a child or animal can touch or sit on it without harm

cut their heating bill by up to 50% with the EdenPURE®?

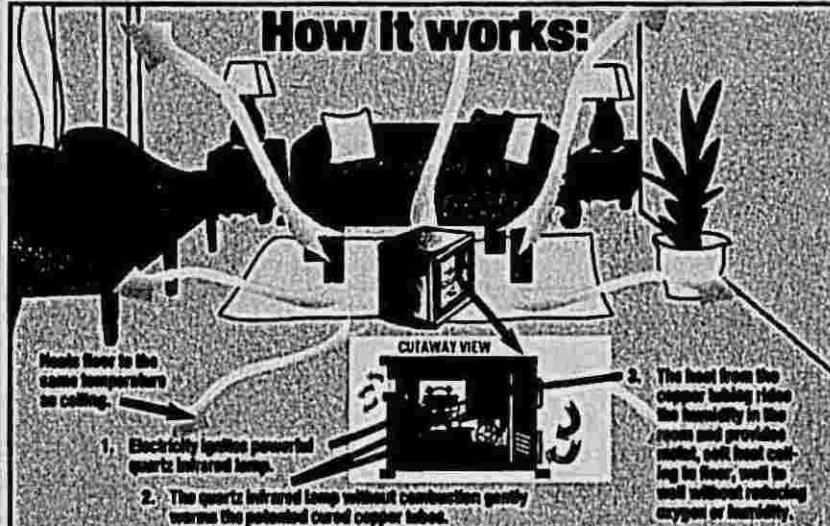
A. The EdenPURE® will heat a room in minutes. Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE®, will be warm and comfortable. The EdenPURE® is portable. When you move to another room, it will quickly heat that room also. This can drastically cut heating bills, in some instances, by up to 50%.

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End of interview.
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from TILLIE B. VAUGHAN

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RECIPE: Lemon Bars

American Profile



Tillie B. Vaughan
Victorville, Calif.

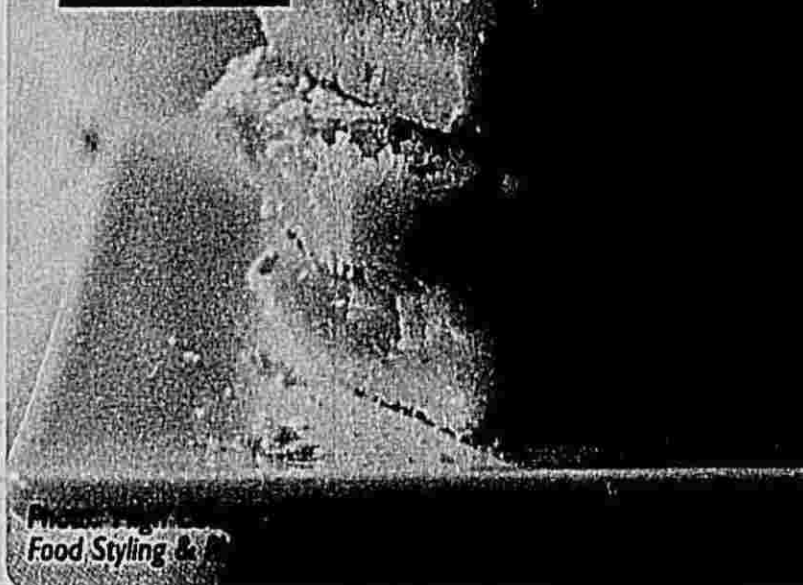


Photo by
Food Styling &

Lemon Bars

- 2 cups, plus 4 tablespoons, all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 6 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

1. Preheat oven to 350F.
 2. Combine 2 cups flour with butter and confectioners' sugar in a 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Mix together with a fork and press firmly into bottom of pan.
 3. Bake 20 to 25 minutes until lightly done but not browned.
 4. Beat eggs with a mixer. Add sugar; blend well. Add lemon juice and lemon rind; beat well. Add baking powder and remaining flour; beat well. Pour over hot crust; do not let it cool. Bake 20 to 25 minutes. Sprinkle top with additional confectioners' sugar.
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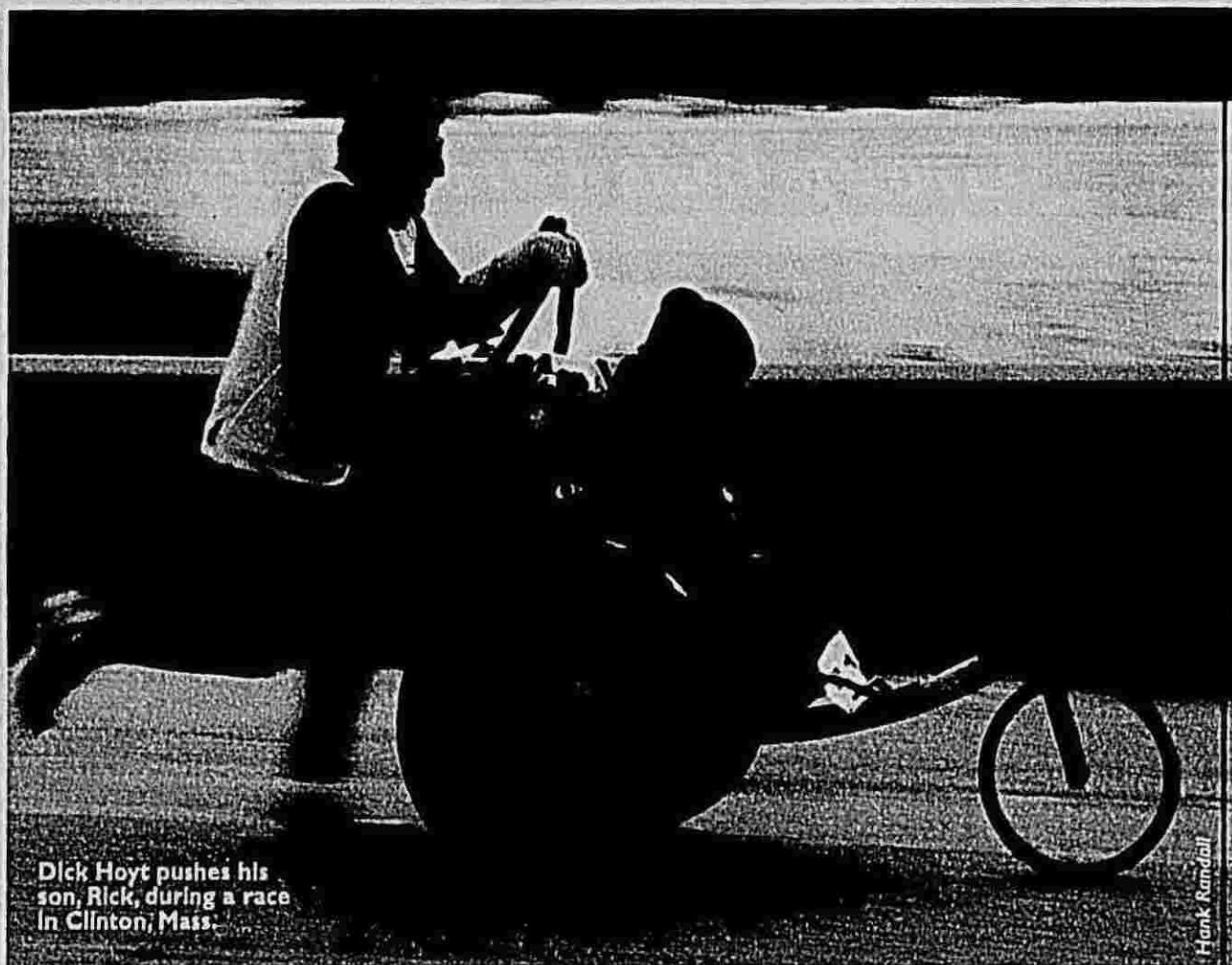
Hometown Heroes

by SHERYL KAYNE

Racing to Inspire Others

In 1977, 15-year-old Rick Hoyt of Sturbridge, Mass. (pop. 8,860), brought home a flyer from school for a 5-mile footrace to benefit a lacrosse player paralyzed in an accident. Rick, who was born with cerebral palsy and unable to speak or control his limbs, used a head-controlled computer voice synthesizer to ask his father, Dick Hoyt, if they could participate in the race. Rick wanted to prove to the athlete that life goes on, even with disability.

Dick wasn't much of a runner, but he pushed Rick in his wheelchair to a next-to-last finish. The youngster was grinning ear-to-ear when they crossed the finish line. "I used my computer to tell Dad,



Dick Hoyt pushes his son, Rick, during a race in Clinton, Mass.

"When we're racing, I don't feel disabled," recalls Rick, now 44.

From that moment on, Dick committed himself to getting into shape so he could help his son enjoy the thrill of competing. The father and son dubbed themselves Team Hoyt and have since completed more than 950 triathlons, duathlons and marathons. To compete in triathlons, Dick pushes Rick's specially designed wheelchair during the run, balances him on the front of a customized road bike as he cycles and pulls him in a rubber float while he swims.

"Dick is 23 years older than me and he pushes Rick's 110 pounds, but so far I haven't beaten them," says Elvera Pingeton, 44, of Oxford, Mass., who was inspired by Dick 10 years ago to take up running. "Dick's love for his son drives him. This is his way of achieving freedom for Rick."

Despite Rick's disabilities, his parents, Dick and Judy, decided from his birth to raise him like any other child. "Doctors said to institutionalize him, that he'd be a vegetable for life," says Dick, now 67 and living in Holland, Mass. (pop. 2,536). Instead,

they brought him home and had two more sons, Rob and Russ.

"For years I thought all families had someone in a wheelchair," says Russ Hoyt, 39, of Billerica, Mass. (pop. 39,963). "We did everything together, from playing street hockey with a hockey stick tied to Rick's wheelchair, to climbing Mount Monadnock (in New Hampshire). Dad threw Rick over his back or carried him in his arms while my mother, brother and I climbed up behind them."

Rick has overcome adversity—and triumphed—in many pursuits. He graduated from Westfield High School at age 19, earned his bachelor's degree in special education from Boston University, and worked with Boston College to develop Eagle Eyes technology, which allows the disabled to control a computer using eye movements.

A favorite race for the father-and-son team is the Boston Marathon. "The best part is the screaming crowd calling out our names as we finish," Rick says. Team Hoyt ran its first Boston Marathon in 1981

(Continued on page 18)



Father and son receive a hero's welcome as they race to the finish line during a competition in Japan in 1994.



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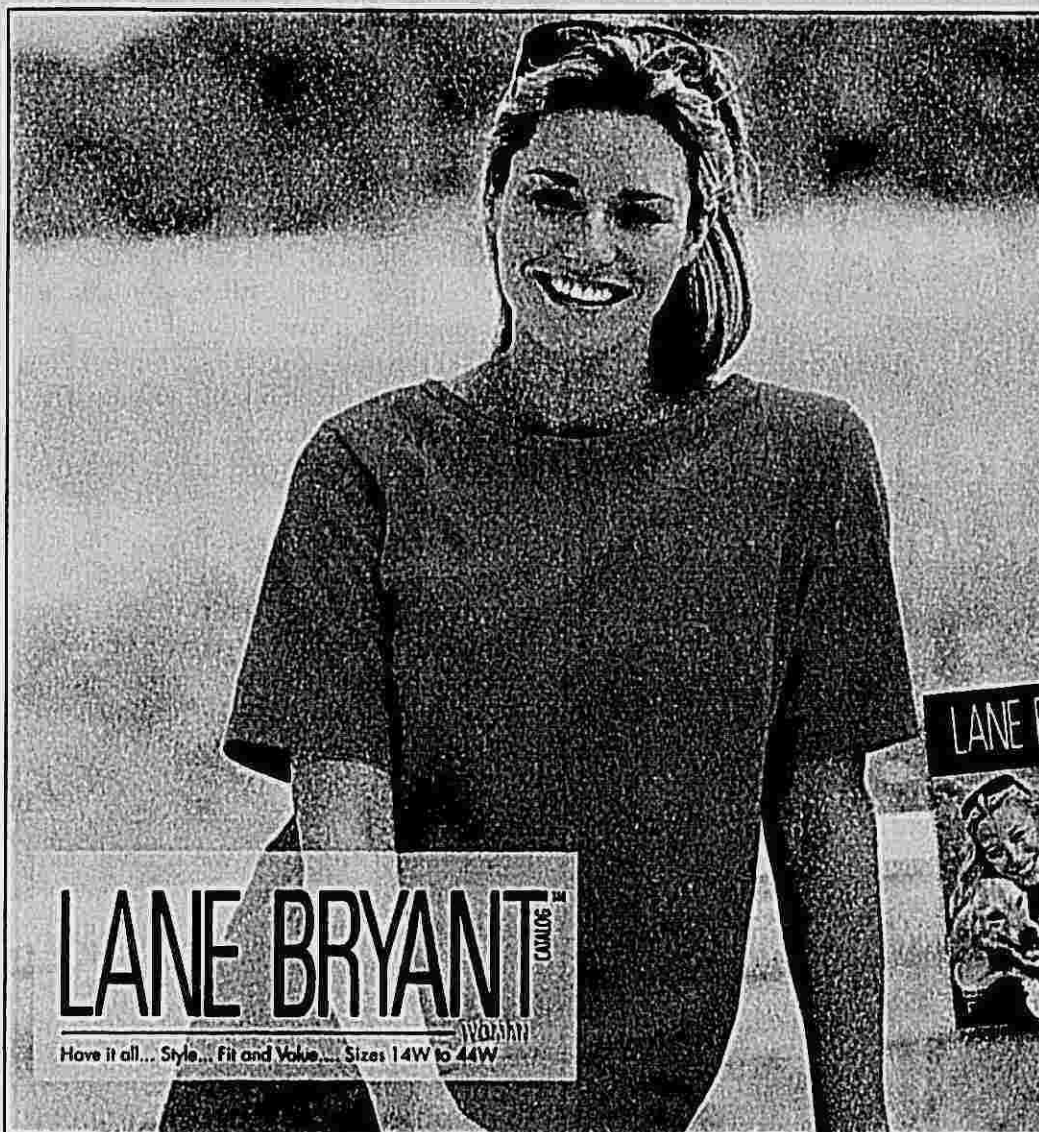
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NOV. 5-25

Happenings

ILLINOIS

Re-enactment of the Lincoln-Thornton Debate—Shelbyville, Nov. 18. Local citizens portray President Abraham Lincoln and attorney Anthony Thornton during this re-enactment of their debate in 1856. Shelby County Courthouse. (217) 774-5548.

INDIANA

Winterfest—Portland, Nov. 17-18. Enjoy a carriage ride through downtown, home tours in the area, a parade of lights and a kids' breakfast. (260) 726-4481.

IOWA

Lighted Christmas Parade—Clarinda, Nov. 23. Enjoy entertainment by Father Goose and his 12 geese followed by the parade, which includes a color guard, Santa Claus in a carriage, carolers and floats, around the Page County Courthouse square. (712) 542-2166.

KANSAS

Homemade Holidays Craft Show—Ottawa, Nov. 10. Arts & crafts, including ceramics, stained glass and woodcarvings, from more than 100 vendors highlight this event at the Ottawa Middle School. (785) 242-8618.

MICHIGAN

Dutch WinterFest & The Holidays—Holland, Nov. 17-Dec. 8. A parade of lights kicks off this celebration featuring Dutch traditions such as *Sinterklaas* (Saint Nicholas) and his *Zuverte Piet* (Black Pete) helpers who deliver either gifts or lumps of coal to children. (800) 506-1299.

MINNESOTA

Autumn Festival, An Arts & Crafts Affair—Shakopee, Nov. 8-11. Shop for handcrafted wares and meet the artists and crafters at Canterbury Park. (952) 445-7223.

MISSOURI

Juried Christmas Arts & Crafts Show—Lebanon, Nov. 23-25. Browse the creations of more than 100 artisans and crafters, and enjoy entertainment, children's activities and food at the Kenneth E. Cowan Civic Center. (417) 532-4642.

NEBRASKA

Fall Orchid Show—Lincoln, Nov. 10-11. View flowering orchids, artwork, photography, and florist and educational displays during the Lincoln Orchid Society's third annual event at Edge 64. (402) 327-8529.

NORTH DAKOTA

Dickens Village Festival—Garrison, Nov. 23-25, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Dec. 7-8. Celebrate the holidays with carriage rides, performances of *A Christmas Carol*, high tea, an English craft show, a lighted parade and musical entertainment. (800) 799-4242.

OHIO

Christmas Around Sabina—Sabina, Nov. 9-10. Browse handcrafted holiday gifts created by more than 30 crafters and displayed in more than 20 decorated homes and two downtown buildings. (937) 584-5257.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Craft Show—Wall, Nov. 11. Crafts, including homemade soaps, candles and dried floral arrangements, bingo and concessions are featured at the Wall Community Center. (605) 279-2665.

WISCONSIN

Christmas Walk—Boulder Junction, Nov. 23. Lighting of the town's Christmas tree, a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus, a Friends of the Library cookie walk, carolers, sleigh rides and treats highlight this event in the downtown area. (715) 385-2400. ★



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(Continued from page 16)

and has missed only two races since.

"Rick's enthusiasm and passion is awesome," says Dave McGillivray, race director of the Boston Marathon. "Dick provides the legs and Rick is the heart, soul and inspiration."

To celebrate their 25th Boston Marathon together last year, Team Hoyt raised \$370,000 through pledges, fund-raising dinners and a sports memorabilia auction. The money was given to Easter Seals in gratitude for assistance programs and camps Rick has attended through the years.

Team Hoyt's ultimate goal is to inspire others to include the disabled in their lives. As part of that effort, the two often give motivational speeches for corporations, schools and not-for-profit organizations, sharing their amazing story and motto, "There's no such word as *can't*."

"We are educating the world about people with disabilities," Rick says, "making them more aware of the issues the disabled face every day. I am a person with a brain and intelligence. I want the opportunity to be included in everyday life and treated like everyone else." ☆

Sheryl Kayne is a writer in Weston, Conn.

To comment or to learn more about Team Hoyt, click on this story at www.americanprofile.com.

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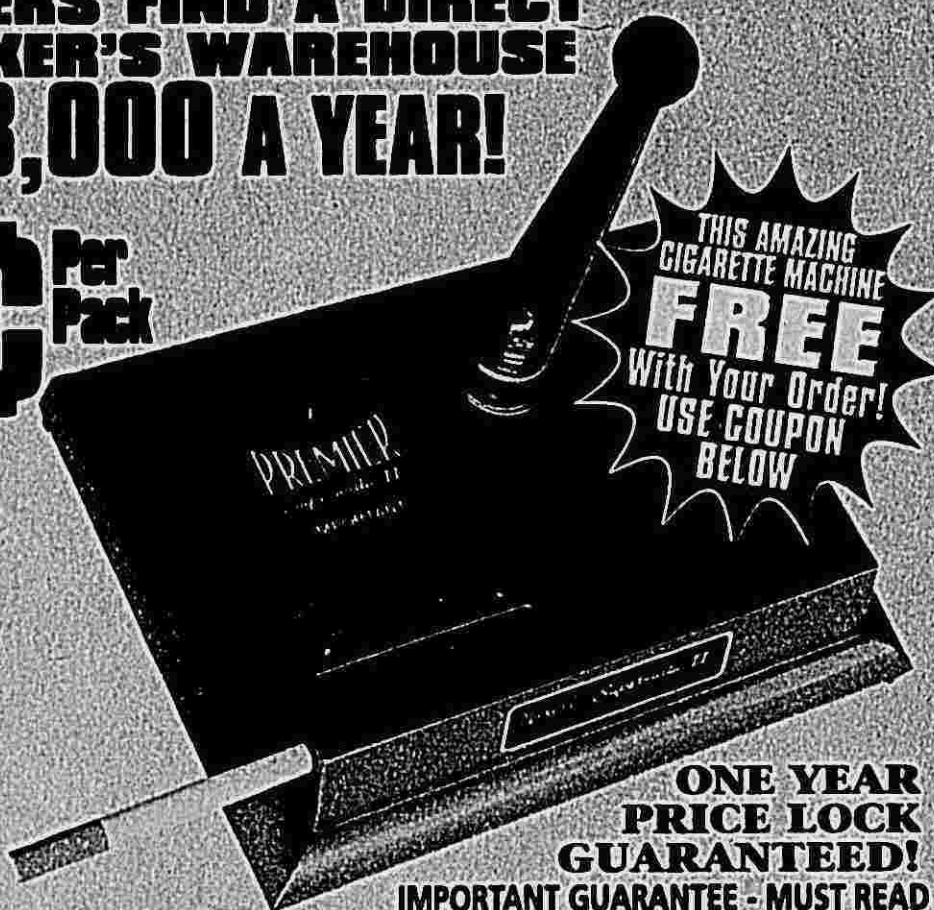
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Our Picks
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Entertainment Editor

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by Eli Gold with M.B. Roberts

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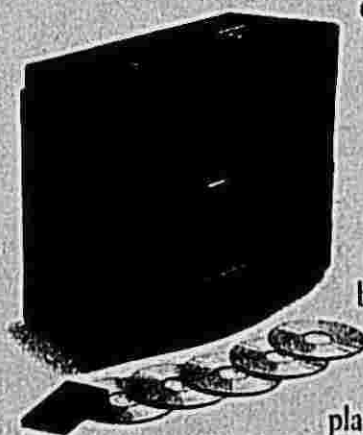
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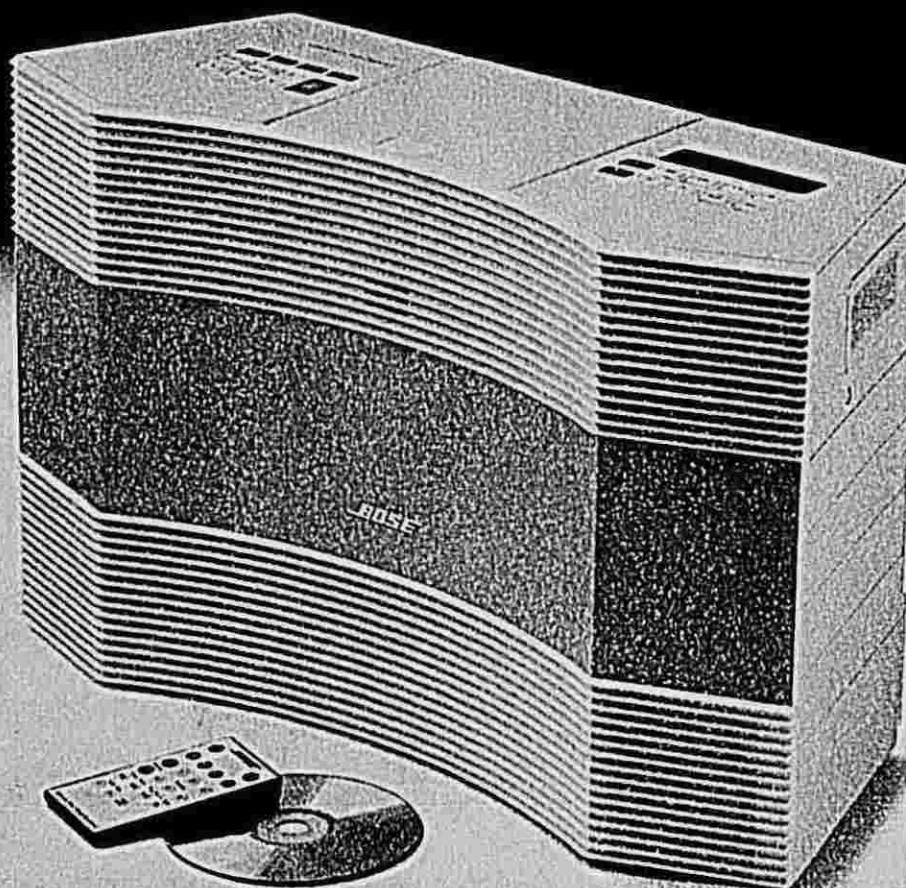
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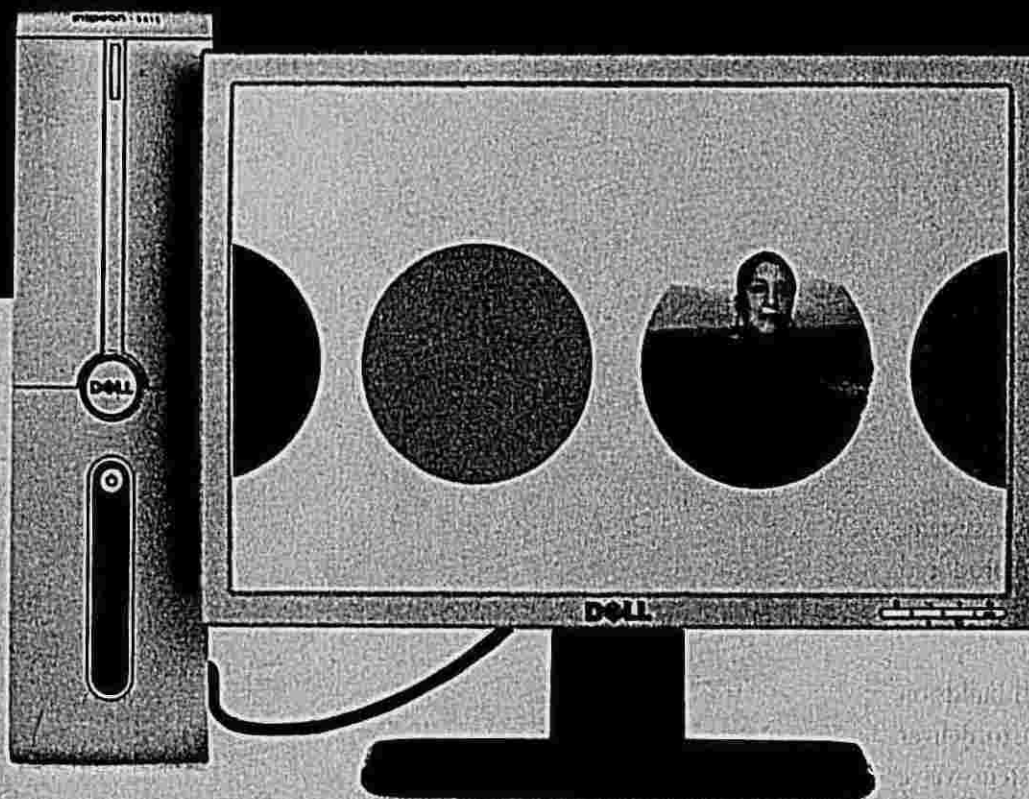
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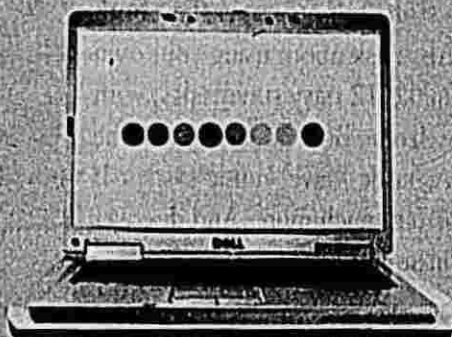
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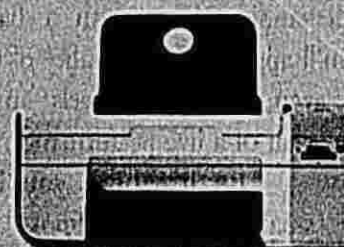


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Classic Karo® Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients:
 1 cup Karo® or B&W® Granulated Sugar
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 tsp. Fleischmann's® Ground Saigon Cinnamon
 1/2 tsp. Fleischmann's® Ground Ginger
 1/8 tsp. Fleischmann's® Ground Cloves
 2 eggs
 1/2 cup Karo® Light OR Dark Corn Syrup
 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
 1 can (12 fluid ounces) evaporated milk
 1 (9-inch) deep dish pie crust, unbaked

MIX sugar, salt and spices in a bowl. Add eggs and beat slightly. Add remaining ingredients; blend well. Pour pumpkin filling into pie crust.

BAKE at 425°F for 15 minutes; reduce oven temperature to 350°F and continue baking for 40 to 60 minutes, or until knife inserted in pie center comes out clean.

COOL a minimum of 2 hours before serving.

Homemade Deep Dish Pie Crust Recipe: In food processor, pulse 1-1/2 cups of Gold Medal® All-Purpose Flour, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/4 cup cold butter, 1/4 cup vegetable shortening until in large crumbs. Add 4-5 tbsp. cold water; pulse until mixture starts to form a ball. (Do not over mix.) Shape dough into round disc; cover with plastic wrap and freeze for 10 minutes until easy to handle. Roll dough into 11-inch circle on floured surface; fit dough into 9-1/2 inch deep dish pie plate. Trim edge; vent holes. Pour in filling and bake as indicated above.

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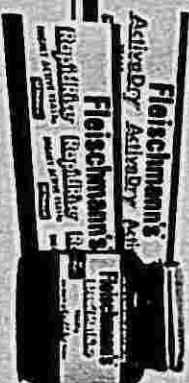
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A RECIPE FOR TOGETHERNESS

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1-Dish Caramel Pecan Coffee Cake

Serves 12 (12 cups) • 25 minutes • Baking 1 to 1 1/2 hours

	Caramel Pecan Topping	Cinnamon Sugar Syrup
1/2 cup Karo® Cooking Syrup	1/2 cup Karo® Light or Dark Corn Syrup	1/4 cup Karo® or 60/40® Granulated Sugar
1/2 cup Karo® or 60/40®	1/2 cup Karo® or 60/40®	1 cup, light Karo® or 60/40® Syrup (Cinnamon)
2 tbsp. butter, melted	2 tbsp. butter, melted	
1/2 cup, salt	1/2 cup chopped pecans	
3/4 cup very warm water (120° to 130°)		
2 tbsp. butter, melted		

Box butter ingredients in a pre-sprayed 9-1/2 inch deep dish pie plate. Stir together corn syrup, brown sugar and butter in a small bowl. Add pecans and mix well. Combine cinnamon sugar topping ingredients in a small bowl.

Top butter evenly with cinnamon sugar topping. Spoon the caramel pecan topping evenly over the butter.

Bake by placing in a cool oven, set temperature to 350°F. Bake 25 minutes, until lightly browned and firm in center. Cool slightly; serve warm.

Note: Place if boxed butter may be used in a separate bowl. Proceed as directed above.

